



Indianapolis
Gregory A. Ballard, Mayor

NEWS RELEASE

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Mayor Ballard to Revoke Charter of The Project School

School Closed for Academic and Financial Reasons; Students Offered Relocation Assistance

INDIANAPOLIS – Mayor Greg Ballard today sent notice to parents, staff, and administrators at The Project School stating the City's intent to revoke its charter for academic and financial reasons prior to the start of the 2012-2013 school year. The Project School, located at 1145 E. 22nd St., served 311 students in grades K-8. It opened in 2008.

"The Project School ranks among the worst performing schools in Marion County and in the entire state," said Mayor Ballard. "The school's poor academic performance coupled with recently discovered serious financial problems prompted us to close the school before classes start so as not to disrupt or sacrifice a year of education for the students at The Project School."

Under Mayor Ballard, the Office of Education Innovation monitors and evaluates the city's Mayor-sponsored charter schools on a number of academic, operational, and fiscal measurements over multiple years. The Project School ranks in the bottom 5 percent in Marion County and bottom 2 percent of schools in Indiana. Its 2012 academic results likely would produce an "F" grade under the state's new accountability standards. The school has failed to properly administer federal grants and keep adequate cash balances, and its mounting debt raises serious questions about its financial solvency.

The Office of Education Innovation has appointed two trustees, Angela Smith-Jones and Robert Vane, to immediately begin working with families of students at The Project School to discuss other educational options and assist in placement and enrollment. The Office of Education Innovation also has notified IPS, charter, and religious schools in the area. All have available space to welcome these students. The private schools also will accept the state vouchers for those students who qualify.

The Office of Education Innovation and the trustees plan to host a school enrollment fair for students and parents at 6 p.m. Thursday, July 26, at Overcoming Church, 2203 N. Columbia Ave.

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